Okay So Now What?

(Post election thoughts)

11.8.26

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Titus 3: Remind them to submit to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work, [2] to slander no one, to avoid fighting, and to be kind, always showing gentleness to all people. [3] For we too were once foolish, disobedient, deceived, enslaved by various passions and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, detesting one another.

[4] But when the kindness of God our Savior and his love for mankind appeared, [5] he saved us—not by works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy—through the washing of regeneration and renewal by the Holy Spirit. [6] He poured out his Spirit on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior [7] so that, having been justified by his grace, we may become heirs with the hope of eternal life. [8] This saying is trustworthy. I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed God might be careful to devote themselves to good works. These are good and profitable for everyone. [9] But avoid foolish debates, genealogies, quarrels, and disputes about the law, because they are unprofitable and worthless. [10] Reject a divisive person after a first and second warning. [11] For you know that such a person has gone astray and is sinning; he is self-condemned.

What we CANNOT DO to unbelievers in the current culture!

We cannot alienate unbelievers.
We cannot be enemies with unbelievers.
We cannot expect unbelievers to "change" without the source of change…..Jesus.
We cannot expect unbelievers to be Jesus "curious" if we are not ……..kind.

I. We can submit to …….. the Government

"Remind the believers to submit to the government and its officers. They should be obedient,

always ready to do what is good. "

Romans 13:1 Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God. [2] So anyone who rebels against authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and they will be punished.

7 Give to everyone what you owe them: Pay your taxes and government fees to those who collect them, and give respect and honor to those who are in authority.

When not to submit?

> **Acts 4:** **13 When they observed the boldness of Peter and John and realized that they were uneducated and untrained men, they were amazed and recognized that they had been with Jesus. 14 And since they saw the man who had been healed standing with them, they had nothing to say in opposition. 15 After they ordered them to leave the Sanhedrin, they conferred among themselves, 16 saying, "What should we do with these men? For an obvious sign has been done through them, clear to everyone living in Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it. 17 But so that this does not spread any further among the people, let's threaten them against speaking to anyone in this name again." 18 So they called for them and ordered them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.**
>
> **19 Peter and John answered them, "Whether it's right in the sight of God for us to listen to you rather than to God, you decide; 20 for we are unable to stop speaking about what we have seen and heard."**

II. We can serve/help

"always ready to do what is good."

Acts 28:2 NASB. The [a]natives showed us <u>extraordinary</u> kindness, for they kindled a fire and took us all in because of the rain that had started and because of the cold.

--We can help…by letting down our bias.

--We can have unbelievers in our life at some level.

---We can… Especially in our culture… Help financially. /Pray for people. /Encouragement. /Compliment! /Listen!

III. We can avoid Slander and quarreling.

" They must not slander anyone and must avoid quarreling. "

How we slander and quarrel?

Blatant blast

Friend blabber

Subtle not so "Christian" methods

The problem with slander and quarrelling.

We are slandering a creation loved by our Father.

We are slandering someone Jesus dies for and wants to rescue!

We are not behaving like who we claim to follow.

We are not exercising the number one indicator of who we are supposed to follow.

We are not making Christianity very attractive.

Try this!

If you must speak/hold accountable…. speak with genuine respect and concern.

> **James 1:19 [19] My dear brothers and sisters, understand this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to anger,**
>
> **26 [26] If anyone[g] thinks he is religious without controlling his tongue, his religion is useless and he deceives himself.**

Pray for those that hurt you.

Close:

No matter what good truths you have to teach, no one will thank you if you do not speak kindly. C.H. Spurgeon